

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminary to the issuance of an Office Action in the present application and in response to the Official Action of January 30, 2004.

Record is also made of an interview between applicant's representative and the Examiner which took place on March 30, 2004. The Examiner is thanked for his help and assistance as well as for the courtesies extended to Counsel at that time. During the course of the interview, the present application was extensively discussed in light of the final rejection of claims 1 and 3-8 on the basis of the applied prior art, in particular to Johnson.

As a result of the interview, applicant has replaced by claim 4 which has been rewritten in independent form and is drawn up in accordance with the agreement at the interview so as to overcome each and every objection or rejection to the claims as set forth in the Examiner's Official Action of January 30, 2004. Claims 2-3, 5 and 8 have been amended to make them consistent with changes to the claim language.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is considered patentably differentiated over the prior art of record and believed to be in immediate conditions for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are thus respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully

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requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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